

Meeting Agenda

Interagency Bison Management Plan

*MT FWP Regional Office; Bozeman, MT
August 6-7, 2008*

IBMP Principle Representatives

Jerry Diemer, Associate Regional Director, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest
Pat Flowers, Region 3 Supervisor, Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Suzanne Lewis, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park
Christian Mackay, Executive Officer, Montana Board of Livestock
Marty Zaluski, State Veterinarian, Montana Department of Livestock

Purpose/Needs Statement for Series of Seven Meetings

The Federal and State Records of Decision in December 2000 for the Long-Term Interagency Bison Management Plan for Montana and Yellowstone National Park (IBMP) were the result of extensive deliberation and legal proceedings that yielded an unprecedented agreement amongst federal-state agencies (National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Montana Department of Livestock, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks). Under the IBMP, these agencies harness their respective skills and operational resources to work cooperatively within an adaptive management framework to conserve a wild, free-ranging bison population while concurrently protecting against transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle.

Partner agencies are committed to the adaptive management framework of the IBMP. In keeping with this commitment, the partners have scheduled multiple working meetings between August and December 2008. These meetings will be open to the public with agendas designed so that partner agencies can effectively deliberate on recent recommendations by the US Government Accountability Office; assess the effectiveness and outcomes of IBMP management activities (highlighting winter 2007-2008); and considering prevailing conditions, develop and incorporate short- and long-term adaptive management adjustments to the IBMP for winter 2008-2009 and beyond.

Goals of the Seven Meetings: for the IBMP Partners...

1. ... to effectively deliberate on recent recommendations by the US Government Accountability Office;

2. ... to assess the effectiveness and outcomes of IBMP management activities (highlighting winter 2007-2008);
3. ... considering prevailing conditions, to develop and incorporate short- and long-term adaptive management adjustments to the IBMP for winter 2008-2009 and beyond.

Wednesday August 6th

Afternoon session

2:00 PM	Scott Bischke <i>(facilitator)</i>	<p>Welcome and overview of series of IBMP meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting purpose/need/goals • Introductions of Agency Principals and support staff • Meeting logistics, format, process • Aug 6/7 schedule overview (note public comment sign-up) • Today's goal(s)
2:15		IBMP agency reports on 2007-2008 IBMP operating season
2:15	Jerry Diemer	APHIS (15 min)
2:30	Mary Erickson	USFS/Gallatin National Forest (10 min)
2:40	Tim Reid	National Park Service (20 min)
3:00	Pat Flowers	Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (10 min)
3:10	Marty Zaluski	Montana Department of Livestock (10 min)
3:20	Scott Bischke	Discussion of 2007-2008 IBMP operating season, key developments, lessons learned; consensus from partners
3:45	<i>Break</i>	
4:00	Scott Bischke	Continue discussion of 2007-2008 IBMP operating season, key developments, lessons learned; consensus from partners
4:30	Scott Bischke	Public comment period (from sign-up sheet; 2 min each)
5:00	Adjourn	

Thursday August 7th

Morning session

8:30 AM	Scott Bischke	Welcome and overview of series of IBMP meetings (can be abbreviated if no new attendees from partners or public) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting purpose/need/goals• Introductions of agency principals and support staff• Meeting logistics, format, process• Aug 7 schedule overview (note public comment sign-up sheet)• Recap previous day's meeting and today's goals
8:45	Rick Wallen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation on status of the bison population• Discussion of key developments, lessons learned; consensus from partners
9:45	Break	
10:00	Round table discussion	Review and discussion of GAO Audit Report and Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review GOA recommendations and formal agency responses• Discussion of action(s), responsible party, completion and reporting timeline required to reach partner consensus response to<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ GAO recommendation 3: data repository (Steve Merritt [DoL] on DoL website progress)◦ GAO recommendation 4: Congressional reporting

Lunch break (11:30-1:00)

Afternoon session

1:00 PM	Round table discussion (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify agenda outline for next meeting agenda<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ GAO recommendation 5: lead entity◦ GAO recommendation 1: measureable objectives◦ GAO recommendation 2: adaptive management
1:30	Scott Bischke	Public comment period from sign-up sheet (2 min each, priority to those who have not spoken)

2:00	<i>Adjourn</i>	Next meeting date [anticipated meetings dates are Aug 28/29, Sep 8/9, Oct 2/3, Oct 15/16, Nov 5/6, Dec 9/10; various locations)
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Working Draft